

Kwast pins on brigadier general's stars

By Tech. Sgt. John Jung, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Army Major General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, CJTF-82 commander, salutes Brig. Gen. Steven L. Kwast, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander after pinning on his new rank. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Felicia Juenke)

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Colonel Steven L. Kwast, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander was promoted to brigadier general in an early morning ceremony at the Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters here.

Presiding over the promotion ceremony was Army Maj. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, commander of CJTF-82, which partners with the 455th AEW and the wing's Airmen.

Sharing a common heritage in the Army Air Corps, the Air Force and Army are interconnected. In brief remarks, General Scaparrotti explained how this promotion ceremony was unique and special for him because of an Air Force connection.

"I was honored when the Air Force asked me to

See KWAST, next page



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Vannorsdall, 455th Expeditionary Wing command chief unfurls the general officer flag of Brig. Gen. Steven L. Kwast, 455th AEW commander with the assistance of Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Capel, CJTF-82, command sergeant major. A general officer flag is a time-honored tradition in the military service. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Felicia Juenke)



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Airman Myka San Nicholas, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, receives a personal coin from Brig. Gen. Steven L. Kwast. Airman San Nicholas is the youngest Airman at BAF and served as the proffer in the general's ceremony. Airman San Nicholas is deployed from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., and hails from Agana, Guam. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Felicia Juenke)

KWAST

promote Colonel Kwast. When I was promoted to brigadier general, I was promoted by an Air Force officer, Gen. Norton Schwartz, now Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and I thought this was a good way to return the favor," said Gen. Scaparrotti.

After the formal pinning of his new rank and the traditional unfurling of his general officer's flag, Brig. Gen. Kwast took the podium and thanked the assembled crowd for their time and service to their country.

General Kwast spoke about family, patriotism, the calling of those who serve their country and teamwork.

"This is a time for you to think about your family as a foundation of your ability to serve this country and great cause. Every generation needs a cadre of great American patriots like you who are willing to leave everything behind and come forward to put your life on the line for causes much greater than your individual self interests," said Gen. Kwast.

There is no higher calling than what we do. Today's ceremony is made possible by men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice and died for their country. There is no greater tribute to them than for us to wear this uniform and get after the fight," he continued.

"We're here to work together as a team to find a way to win and there is no better way to punctuate and close this ceremony than by getting after it and getting back to work," the general concluded.

General Kwast is the Commander, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The 455th AEW employs mobility, electronic attack, close air support, and aeromedical evacuation assets which support the International Security Assistance Force and Operation Enduring Freedom.

General Kwast was commissioned from the United States Air Force Academy in 1986, and has more than 3,000 flying hours including over 350 combat hours during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom.

Flying Tigers break records, employ precision engagement

By Tech. Sgt. John Jung
455th Air Expeditionary
Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan

In the past five months, the 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, deployed from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., set a record number of combat flying hours in the A-10 Thunderbolt II - 12,200 to date - breaking a former record held by their sister squadron, whom they replaced in March.

During that span of time the 74th EFS 'Flying Tigers,' who trace their roots back to the American Volunteer Group of WWII, have employed hundreds of 500-pound bombs, 2.75-inch rockets and more than 54,000 30-mm high explosive shells, according to Lt. Col. Philip Weilhouwer, 74th EFS commander.

"What the team of the 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and 74th Aircraft Maintenance Unit have accomplished is fly more than 2,800 missions in support of troops on the ground. Whether we drop [bombs] or shoot doesn't really



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Lieutenant Colonel Philip Weilhouwer, 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander, readies his Warthog for a mission in the skies of Afghanistan. His A-10 squadron has a lineage prior to WWII and were known as the Flying Tigers and recently they've completed over 12,200 combat hours – a feat for any fighting unit. The native of East Windsor, Conn. is currently deployed from Moody Air Force Base, Ga. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. John Jung)

matter, it's whether we've supported the guys on the ground, and if they are protected and they get the mission accomplished is what counts," said Col. Philip Weilhouwer.

The partnership between the operations

and maintenance groups is one to be envied as the Flying Tigers have not gone a single day where there were not A-10s airborne conducting operations in the skies over Afghanistan.

The A-10 'Warthog,' as it is affectionately

nicknamed, excels in its role of precision engagement, close air support and airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance for American

**See Warthog,
next page**

Warthog

and Coalition ground forces throughout Afghanistan.

Among the Warthog's large array of weapons is the GAU-8 Gatling gun mounted on internal pylons in the aircraft that makes the enemy 'fear the Hog' most when it comes to precision engagement and close air support. The GAU-8 is capable of firing upwards of 4,000 rounds of high explosive 30-mm shells per minute in a very compact footprint.

"The 30-mm is the preferred weapon of the ground commander," said Maj. Kevin Eilers, a veteran A-10 pilot. "It's a distinct advantage in a close-in fight, because I can confidently target a bad guy with almost surgical precision. There's just a lower risk of unintentional casualties."



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - The Warthog, like the P-40 Warhawk of WWII, still sports the iconic gaping smile of a shark's mouth. Within that smile rests the GAU-8, 30-mm Gatling gun, capable of unleashing a torrent of high explosive rounds. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. John Jung)

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Two Warthogs from the 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron sit on the tarmac awaiting clearance to launch on a mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 74th EFS, deployed from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., recently surpassed 12,200 combat flight hours - a record. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. John Jung)



AROUND BAGRAM AIRFIELD



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Senior Airman Alicia Borja, a member of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing's Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron volunteered her time to scrub dirt and grime off the walls of one of Bagram Air Field's most recognizable landmarks, "The Crow's Nest," a control tower built in 1976 during the Soviet Union's occupation. Volunteer projects are popping up all over the base as Col. Steven L. Kwast, 455th AEW commander, urges Airmen to take ownership and pride in base appearance. About 5,000 Airmen are deployed to Bagram Air Field supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Coalition Forces. (U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. David Faggard)

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

Break the Cycle:

sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep
work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym
sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep
work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

Volunteer

sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep

work gym sleep

Hospital

sleep work gym sleep

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

sleep work

Honor Guard

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

sleep work

Base Clean Up

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

sleep work

Security Forces

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

sleep work

Fire Department

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

sleep work gym sleep work gym sleep

work gym sleep work gym sleep work gym

Contact your First Sergeant for more details.



Bazaar Returns to Bagram

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan - A local vender offers pictures and rides on his camel at the Bazaar. The Bazaar just reopened recently and troops were very anxious to see what was in store. The Bazaar is a place that allows local vendors to sell their wares, from rugs to coats and electronics, and there is usually something for everyone. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Susan Tracy)

NEWS BRIEFS

SAFETY ALERT: Do not consume MRE and UGR-E dairy shake powder, all flavors, until further notice. All MRE with dates of pack (DOP) prior to, and including, 9139 are subject to the Do Not Consume Order. All other components of the MRE are consumable and should not be discarded or destroyed.

NATO MEDALS: The NATO Medal typically takes approx. 90 days upon arrival for approval and distribution back to PERSCO. PERSCO has a spreadsheet posted to the SIPR public drive which you can view to see the status of your medal. If you notice any errors, call PERSCO at 431-2070/4409 or email 455MSG.PERSCO@afghan.swa.army.mil

GOING TDY: All Air Force members are required to in and out-process through PERSCO for TDYs, Emergency Leave or R&R Leave/Pass. The PAX terminal will not manifest you until they have documentation stamped from PERSCO. All personnel assigned to the 455th are required to complete the AOR Travel Authorization Memo for any type of TDY. Please direct questions to PERSCO, 431-4409/2070.

COMBAT O: Combat Orientation is Wednesday at 0830Z/1300L at the Enduring Faith Chapel. This is a mandatory briefing for all Air Force personnel assigned to Bagram Air Field. Accountability is tracked and will be forwarded to the first sergeants.

NEWCOMERS INPROCESSING: All Air Force members are required to inprocess with PERSCO. The inprocessing will start your combat pay entitlements. If you have been in the AOR for at least 30 days and you are not receiving combat pay, visit Finance in the crow's nest tower on Camp Cunningham. If you know for a fact that you did not inprocess with PERSCO, please visit PERSCO located in Bldg. 700 near the passenger terminal. Call 431-2070/4409 for more information.

MEO CONTACT INFO: The Camp Cunningham Military Equal Opportunity Office at Bldg. 726 can be reached by calling 481-6226 or call the Air Force Discrimination Hotline at 1-888-231-4058.

EAGLE CASH: All deployed personnel (military, civilian and contractors) using Air Force finance office services within the USCENTCOM AOR are required to have an EagleCash Stored Value Card and highly encouraged to use it.

IMMUNIZATIONS: Are your immunizations up to date? Active duty members are required to stay current

on all immunizations during their deployment. Report to your nearest medical treatment facility to check your status and get vaccinated. For questions, contact Task Force Medical Public Health.

PAPERLESS HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASE: Just arrived here at Bagram? Got promoted? Hit a milestone in your career? Tell your family and friends at home by sending a paperless Hometown News Release available on the Bagram Air Field public Web site at this link: <https://hnforms.dmasa.dma.mil/lfserver/455AEWBAGRAM>. Just fill out the form and hit submit. It's that easy.

Smoking is allowed:

- ☐ In your room
- ☐ Between the huts
- ☐ In a GOV
- ☒ None of the above

Smoking is **ONLY** authorized
in designated areas.

By order of the
Wing Commander

